

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

In the beginning, You created Adam and Eve, not because You needed mankind but because You wished to share Your friendship and Your gifts with humanity.

Even now, Lord, You do not need our prayers. You need not our service as if You could not shift the pattern of the world without our intent or efforts at goodness and justice.

Rather, it is by Your grace You lead us to do what is right and timely. By following Your commands and prophetic word, we find salvation for ourselves and search out the ways of peace with others. Simply by doing Your will are we led to where we belong and prove our connectedness to You and the world around us.

So, in all we say or do, we can either consciously or unknowingly give You glory, honor and praise both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

GENERAL SAM HOUSTON AND MARCH 2

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this day, March the 2nd, 1836, marks the day Texas declared independence from Mexico and its dictator, Santa Anna. Texas became a free, independent nation for 9 years.

March 2 also marks the birth of the person who led Texas to independence, Sam Houston. Born in Virginia in 1793, he fought the Creeks with Andy Jackson, became a Congressman and a Governor from Tennessee.

He went to Texas to champion the cause of Texas liberty, and was the commander of the outnumbered Army of Texas that defeated Santa Anna. General Sam became President of the Republic of Texas and, later, Governor and U.S. Senator when Texas was a State.

When the War Between the States broke out—ironically, on Sam's birth-

day and on the 25th anniversary of Texas independence, March the 2nd, 1861—Texas left the Union and joined the Confederacy. Houston refused to take the oath to support the South, so the Texas legislature removed Governor Houston from office.

Houston is the only person to have served in Congress from different States, as Governor of two States and as president of a nation. His last words were "Texas, Texas."

And that's just the way it is.

THE U.S. SENATE'S CONSIDERATION OF THE \$412 BILLION OMNIBUS APPROPRIATION

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, the Senate will consider the \$412 billion omnibus appropriation bill in the same month as the Fiscal Responsibility Summit.

The legislation contains 9,000 earmarks, including 12 potentially criminal earmarks. It is the spending for the clients of Paul Magliochetti & Associates, a lobbying firm raided by the FBI 3 months ago. We expect indictments soon. But the leaders of this House approved those 12 potentially criminal earmarks, and they are separate budget items now, totaling over \$8 million of the taxpayers' funds.

The Politico reported that the Speaker is concerned about the vetting process used by the Appropriations Committee. The concern is well-placed, and now the Senate should delete funding for these 12 potentially criminal PMA earmarks.

HONORING NINE YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE BECOME EAGLE SCOUTS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate nine young men in my district who exemplify leadership, commitment and perseverance—Kendall Belcher, Carter Boyd, Alec Giglio, and Austin Hunter from Shreveport, Louisiana, and Lincoln Hall, Gabe Castro, David Chatelain, Anthan Adkins, and Samuel Wisher from Natchitoches, Louisiana. They have all been named Eagle Scouts.

The award is the highest achievement in scouting and represents excellence in the three goals of scouting—citizenship training, character development and personal fitness. These nine young men proved they are worthy of an honor given to only 5 percent of all scouts, not to mention the population in general.

I congratulate these young men for this tremendous accomplishment, and I urge them to continue on the path of leadership.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 27, 2009, at 10:09 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 160.

That the Senate passed S. 387.

Appointments:

Congressional Advisors on trade policy and negotiations to International conferences, meetings and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

COCOPAH LANDS ACT

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 326) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust as part of the reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 326

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cocopah Lands Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona is located in Yuma County, Arizona.

(2) That reservation was created by an Executive order signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1917.

(3) The Tribe's land holdings are located within 3 noncontiguous reservations comprising a total of approximately 6,226.3 acres of trust land.

(4) The Tribe purchased the additional lands to provide infrastructure to housing areas, water, and economic development to tribal members.

(5) The current trust land base of the reservation is insufficient to provide such needs.

(6) The Tribe acquired 7 parcels of land contiguous to its present reservation lands